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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/016,387	12/10/2001	Tae Woo Yoo	212/1/062	4902
7590	04/22/2004		EXAMINER	
Richard M. Goldberg Suite 419 25 East Salem Street Hackensack, NJ 07601			ROBERTS, PAUL A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3731	
			DATE MAILED: 04/22/2004	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/016,387	YOO, TAE WOO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Paul A Roberts	3731	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 December 2001.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,2 and 4 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 3 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 10 December 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chang 5792176. The Chang device comprises a 1st adhesive tape (21) a t-pellet (15) attached to the first adhesive tape, a 2nd adhesive tape (32) positioned over (as in above) said 1st adhesive and said t-pellet, and having a small hole in the center thereof (33) through which an end portion of the t-pellet is inserted, and further having an adhesive on one side. The tape is considered the bulk of the strips shown as elements 21 or 32. The adhesive side is simply the face of the strip, which is the part of strip that is sticky. A plate (33) is disclosed and positioned on said second tape. Said plate having a small hole in a center thereof through which said end portion of said t-pellet is inserted. Chang does not disclose the material of the plate. It is well known in the art to use gold in medical devices because gold is an inert metal and is highly biocompatible. Some patents that show this property are: US 6099546 A, US 6096070 A, and US 6096068 A. Also, Chung US 6113620 A discloses an acupuncture needle having a gold plate, needle, and shaft to improve the device's skin biocompatibility. At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to construct the Chang plate out of gold so that the plate was biocompatible with the body.

2. Regarding claim 2, the first and second tapes have their adhesive on opposite sides.

3. Regarding claim 4, the tapes and gold plate have circular shapes and are coaxially aligned.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claim 3 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: in the Chang device the plate is on the opposite side of the adhesive. Thus the adhesive side and the plate are not in contact with each other. No motivation was found to reverse the parts from the other art of record.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US 6022368 A	An acupuncture device
US 6361550 B	Acupressure device for treatment of nausea
US 5957951 A	Portable device for acupuncture-type percutaneous treatment
US 5904700 A	Magnetic acupuncture pointer
US 5531675 A	Micro-acupuncture needle for finger of hand
US 3923064 A	Device for acupuncture

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul A Roberts whose telephone number is (703) 305-7558. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael J Milano can be reached on 703-308-2496. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Paul Roberts
Paul.Roberts@uspto.gov
04/07/04



MICHAEL J. MILANO 4/15/04
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700